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*Collected by*

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*Author of*

HOW to BEHAVE at a BANQUET

The A·M·Davis Co.
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# TRENCH GAS

## Two of a Kind

A PRIVATE in the regulars went to the Colonel of his regiment and asked for a two weeks' leave of absence. The Colonel was a severe disciplinarian, who did not believe in extending too many privileges to his men, and did not hesitate to use a subterfuge in evading the granting of one.

"Well," said the Colonel, "what do you want a two weeks' furlough for?"

Patrick answered:

"Me woife is very sick and the children are not well, and, if ye didn't moind, she would loike to have me home fer a few weeks to give her a bit of assistance."

The Colonel eyed him for a few minutes and said:

"Patrick, I might grant your request, but I got a letter from your wife this morning saying she didn't want you home; that you were a nuisance whenever you were there. She hopes I won't let you have any more furloughs."

"That settles it! Oi suppose Oi can't get the furlough, then?" said Pat.

"No, I'm afraid not, Patrick."

It was Patrick's turn now to eye the Colonel as he started for the door. Stopping suddenly, he said:

"Colonel, can I say somethin' to yez?"

"Certainly, Patrick; what is it?"

"You won't get mad, Colonel, if Oi say it?"

"Certainly not, Patrick. What is it?"

"Oi want to say there are two splendid liars in this room. Oi'm one and ye're another. Oi was never married in me loife."

## Appreciation

IT was just after a rainstorm and two soldiers were walking down the street behind a young woman who was holding her skirt rather high. After an argument as to the merits of the case, one of the soldiers stepped forward and said: "Pardon me, miss, but aren't you holding your skirt rather high?"

"Haven't I a perfect right?" she snapped.

"You certainly have, Miss, and a peach of a left," he replied.

## He Wished to Read

"NURSE," moaned the convalescent British Tommy, "can't I have something to eat? I'm starving."

"Yes, the doctor said you could start taking solids to-day; but you must begin slowly," she said. Then she held out a teaspoonful of tapioca. "We must only advance by degrees," she added.

He sucked the spoon dry and felt more tantalizingly hungry than ever. He begged for a second spoonful, but she shook her head, saying that until he was stronger everything must be given in small quantities.

Presently he summoned her again to his bedside. "Nurse," he said, "bring me a postage stamp; I want to read."

## No Lack of Strength

BILL (to sick friend, who, with lots of others, was suffering from nausea on a battleship): "What's the matter? Weak stomach?"

SICK FRIEND (Indignantly): "What makes you think I've got a weak stomach? Ain't I throwing it as far as anybody?"

## The Stinger Stung

AN Irishman recently went before a recruiting sergeant who tried to "kid" him.

"Have you read the Declaration of Independence?" the sergeant asked.

"I hov not," said Pat.

"Have you read the Constitution of the United States?"

"I hov not, sir."

The sergeant looked sternly at the applicant, and asked:

"What have you read?"

Patrick hesitated but the fraction of a second before replying:

"I hov red hairs on me neck."

## Doing His Best

GEN. GORDON, of Georgia, relates that in the midst of a great battle of the Civil War he saw a man running from a very close situation.

"What are you running for?" demanded the disgusted general in a stern voice.

"Golly, General," said the fleeing man, "I'm running because I can't fly!"

## Pretty Bad, This

"A WOMAN came into the hospital the other day and she was so cross-eyed that the tears ran down her back."

"You couldn't do anything for her, could you?"

"Yes, indeed; we treated her for bacteria."

## Politeness

IT was Christmas, and the military restrictions in the war zone in France were somewhat relaxed in honor of the day. The mayor of a little town near the front was making out a passport for a well-dressed lady who had obtained permission to visit her husband in a field hospital near the trenches. In spite of a certain disfigurement the lady was vain of her appearance, and the mayor's politeness prompted him to gloss over the defect. After a moment's reflection he wrote: "Eyes: dark, beautiful, tender, expressive, but one of them missing."

## The Feminine View

JANE WILLIS: Why did the recruiting officer turn Charlie down?

MARIE GILLIS: On account of his eyes.

JANE WILLIS: Why, I think he has beautiful eyes, don't you?

## 'Twas Worth the Money

A SOLDIER, wearing a ragged German uniform, was seated on an old soap box in front of an internment camp in France playing upon a wheezy accordion. He truly presented a sorry spectacle. His legs were both missing below the knees, one hand was gone and he was short an eye and part of an ear. A well dressed American correspondent stepped up and dropped a ten franc note in the fellow's lap.

Surprised at the donation, the young soldier said gratefully, "You must be a kamarad." "No," replied the correspondent. "I'm an American, and you're the first German that I've seen that was done up to suit me."

## An Irishman and the Mule

GENERAL PHIL SHERIDAN was at one time asked at what little incident did he laugh the most.

"Well," he said, "I do not know, but I always laugh when I think of the Irishman and the army mule. I was riding down the line one day when I saw an Irishman mounted on a mule which was kicking its legs rather freely. The mule finally got its hoof caught in the stirrup, when, in the excitement, the Irishman remarked: 'Well, begorra, if you're going to git on I'll git off.'"

## Had No Means of Reporting

GENERAL NELSON A. MILES, during his active service in the West, one day received a telegram from a subordinate who was injured in a railroad accident while on furlough. The dispatch read:

"Sorry, but cannot report to-day as expected, owing to unavoidable circumstances.

The tone of the message did not phase the General, and he wired back:

"Report at once, or give reasons."

Back came the answer from a hospital:

"Train off — can't ride; legs off — can't walk. Will not report unless you insist."

## Not According to His Logic

AN Irishman and a Frenchman in the trenches were disputing over the nationality of a comrade of theirs.

"I say," said the Frenchman, "that he was born in France: therefore he is a Frenchman."

"Not at all," said Pat: "begorra, if a cat should have kittens in the oven would you call them biscuits?"

## It Puzzled Her

ALONG the Mexican border soldiers are searching vehicles which pass close to crossings into Mexico. One evening a car full of young people was stopped and the usual procedure of examining the bottom of the car was in progress when one young lady asked: "What are you looking for?"

"Arms," the sergeant replied.

"Why," she remarked innocently, "it's all legs down there."

## Would Take the Chance

PAT, whose regiment was in action, became quite overcome by fright and started on a run for the rear. An officer called on him to stop, shouting: "Stop, or I'll fire at you!"

Pat increased his speed. "Foire away!" he yelled. "Phwat's wan bullet to a bushel av 'em?"

## A Natural Suggestion

THE pretty girl was eagerly watching the drill at a training camp when a rifle volley crashed out. With a surprised little scream she shrank back into the arms of the young man standing behind her.

"Oh!" she cried, blushing. "I was frightened by the rifles. I beg your pardon."

"No need," he replied quickly. "Let's go over there, and watch the artillery."

## No Substitute Needed

SOMEONE asked the Kentucky Colonel if there was any cure for a snake bite except whiskey. "Who the h—cares whether there is or not!" said the Colonel.

## Not Particular

A SOLDIER was sitting on a box in the front line trench, industriously scratching his head, when an officer, who was passing, said to him: "Picking 'em out?" "No, sir," replied the soldier, "I takes 'em just as I finds 'em."

THE class had been learning a poem. On reaching the line, "There's not a tint that paints the rose," the teacher asked:

"Can anyone tell me what a tint is?"

Up went the small hand of Lizzie O'Flaherty.

"Well, Lizzie?" from the teacher.

"What the Indians live in," promptly responded Lizzie.

## He Was Deaf

A TRAVELING man after vainly trying to make clear an argument to a fellow-passenger finally yelled, somewhat angrily, "Why, it is as plain as A, B, C."

"That may be," said the other, "but I am D. E. F."

## A Mistake on Both Sides

AN old gentleman on board one of the numerous steamers which ply between England and France missed his handkerchief, and accused a soldier standing by his side of stealing it, which the soldier, an Irishman, denied. Some few minutes afterward the gentleman found the missing article in his hat; he was then most profuse in his apologies to the soldier.

"Not another wurrd," said Pat; "it was a misthake on both sides—ye took me for a thafe, and I took ye for a gintlemon."

## He Didn't Have the Heart

A YOUNG physician was once called in by a gentleman who had a very sick mother-in-law. After looking into the case carefully, the young M.D. called the gentleman aside and said:

"Well, the only thing I can suggest is to send your mother-in-law to a warmer climate."

The man disappeared and came back with an axe a moment later, and exclaimed:

"Here, doctor, you kill her. I really haven't the heart."

## Wanted It Worth While

A PASSER-BY was amazed to see an Irishman poking a dollar bill through the crack of a board walk.

"What are you doing that for?" said he.

"Shure," said the Irishman, "I dropped a nickel down there and I want to make it worth me while to rip up the walk."

## A Double Order

A small boy rushed into a drug store and excitedly called for some liniment and cement. When asked why he desired them both at once he said nervously: "Pa hit Ma with a cup."

## A Slight Mistake

"OH," exclaimed the fair boarder, as a couple of calves scampered across the meadow. "What pretty little cowlets!"

"Yew air mistaken, ma'am," said the old farmer. "Them's bullets."

## Blarney

AN old Irishman on his death bed was asked whether there was any one with whom he would like to talk before passing away and he answered, "Yes, sir, Oi would loike to shpake with Dinny Reagan," and Dinny was called. When he arrived the old man looked at him and said, "Dinny, ould boy, we've been inemies all our loives, but I'm going away now and — well, ould man, let's shake hands and be friends." Dinny was willing and they shook hands. As Dinny was leaving, the old man called after him, "Say, Dinny, remimber, if I shouldn't die all this blarney don't count."

## High and of Good Value

A SOMEWHAT green young fellow had been put on the ladies' hosiery counter during the noon hour. A well dressed lady stepped up to the counter and asked to be shown some hosiery. The clerk showed a new brand. "How much?" said the customer. "One dollar," replied the clerk. "They come too high," said the lady. "But," said the clerk, wishing to do his best, "you are a tall woman."

## This Joke Will Make Good

TWO Irishmen were looking at Niagara Falls. Riley pointed to the Horse Shoe falls and said: "Isn't that wonderful, Kelly?"

"Wontherful!" says Kelly, "what's wontherful?"

"Why, to see all that water come thundering over them rocks."

"I don't see as it's wontherful. What the hell is there to hinther it from coming over?"

## He Knew

"CHILDREN, we will now have an example in division. Tommy, if your father brought home $10 to divide with your mother, what would she get?"

"Ten dollars."

"Tommy, you don't know your lesson."

"No, ma'am, but I know my mother."

## It Was a Speedy Train

THREE men were talking in rather a large way as to the excellent train service each had in his special locality: one was from the West, one from New England, and the other from New York. The former two men had told of marvelous doings of trains, and it was distinctly "up" to the man from New York.

"Now in New York," he said, "we not only run our trains fast, but we also start them fast. I remember the case of a friend of mine whose wife went to see him off for the West at the Pennsylvania Station, New York. As the train was about to start my friend said his final good-by to his wife, and leaned down from the car platform to kiss her. The train started, and, would you believe it, my friend found himself kissing a strange woman on the platform at Trenton!"

## Had Her Started

"BIDDY," says Pat, timidly, "did ye iver think o' marryin'?"

"Shure, now," says Biddy, looking demurely at her shoe, "shure, now, the subject has niver entered me mind at all, at all."

"It's sorry Oi am," says Pat, and he turned away.

"Wan minute, Pat," said Biddy, softly. "Ye've set me thinkin'."

## The Last Stop

ONE cold, wintry morning a man of tall and angular build was walking down a steep hill at a quick pace.

A piece of ice under the snow caused him to lose control of his feet; he began to slide and was unable to stop. At a crossing half way down he encountered a large, heavy woman. The meeting was sudden, and before either realized it a collision ensued and both were sliding down hill, the thin man underneath, the fat woman on top.

When the bottom was reached and the woman was trying to recover her breath and her feet, these faint words were borne to her ear: "Pardon me, madam, but you will have to get off here. This is as far as I go."

## The Bone of Contention

"AT Hale's Ford in Virginia," said Booker Washington, "I used to know in my boyhood an old colored man called Uncle Mose.

"Uncle Mose during the civil war took a great interest in the conflict, but he did not fight himself. A white man took him to task about this one day.

"'Look here, Uncle Mose,' he said, 'here are the men of the north and the men of the south killing one another off on your account. Why don't you pitch in and join them?'

"Uncle Mose looked at his interlocutor with a pleasant smile.

"'Mah frien',' he said, 'has yo' evah seen two dawgs a'fightin' ovah a bone?'

"'Of course I have,' said the white man.

"'Did yo' evah see the bone fight?' said Uncle Mose."

## Very Exact

A PRISONER of Jewish persuasion was up before a justice of the peace. His honor questioned him as follows:

Q. What's your name? A. Ikey Cohen.
Q. How old? A. Tirty-vun.
Q. Married or single? A. Married.
Q. Any children? A. Sure, eight.
Q. Business? A. Rotten.

## Such a Liar

CASEY and Riley agreed to settle their dispute by a fight and it was understood that whoever wanted to quit should say "enough." Casey got Riley down and was hammering him unmercifully, when Riley called out several times "enough!" As Casey paid no attention, but kept on administering punishment, a bystander said, "Why don't you let him up? Don't you hear him say that he's got enough?" "I do," says Casey, "but he's such a liar, you can't believe him."

## One of John L's

THE late John L. Sullivan was once with an admiring group in the cafe of the Hotel Cecil, and members of his party and others in the cafe grew reminiscent of the big fellow's former day of glory. One of the tales recalled concerning John L. has, since its first telling, years ago, done duty in many connections, but an old-timer vouches for its origin as genuine. Many years ago, when John L. was flush with money, he was approached by an acquaintance who was trying to raise money for the burial expenses of a policeman who had just died. He timidly asked the big fellow for $2. "What?" said Mr. Sullivan. "Two dollars to bury a cop? Here's $10; bury five of 'em."

## Knew His Business

A LADY having her home remodelled called in a carpenter of Irish extraction and inquired if he was a carpenter.

"I am," said Pat.

"Can you do all kinds of work?"

"Sure I can," was the answer.

"Can you make a Venetian blind?"

"I can."

"How would you go about it?"

"I'd stick me thumb in his eye," said Pat.

## No Place for Her

IT was the first vaudeville performance a certain old lady had ever seen, and she was particularly excited over the marvelous feats of the magician. But when he covered a newspaper with a heavy flannel cloth, and read the print through it, she grew a little nervous. He then doubled the cloth and again read the letters accurately.

This was more than she could stand, and rising in her seat, she said:

"I'm goin' home. This ain't no place for a lady in a thin calico dress!"

## A Stranger to Her

AN old colored gentleman on returning home one day was surprised to find his daughter standing beneath a tree in the front yard, and a young colored fellow standing beside her with his arm around his daughter's waist. "Mandy," he said, "tell dat nigger to take his arm away frum yur waist."

"Tell him yourseff," said Mandy, "he's a puffect stranger to me."

## Doubtful

AN old negro woman, standing by the grave of her husband, shook her head and said mournfully: "Poor 'Rastus! I hope he's gone where I 'spec he ain't."

## The Missing Deacon

ONE of the prominent deacons in an Ohio church was seriously ill. As he was very popular among the congregation, a bulletin board was posted in front of the church to inform his friends of his condition. It read:

"One o'clock. Deacon Jones very ill."

"Two o'clock. Deacon Jones is worse and sinking rapidly."

"Three o'clock. Deacon Jones dead."

A traveling man passing by that evening read the bulletin and, seeing no one in sight, added at the bottom:

"Seven o'clock. Great excitement in Heaven. Deacon Jones has not yet arrived. The worst is feared."

## His Horse's Intelligence

A FARMER had a horse he was anxious to sell, and one day while driving with one of his summer boarders the horse stopped so frequently as to lead the boarder to ask:

"What ails your horse that he stops so often? Is he balky?"

"No," replied the farmer, "he's all right. It's simply he's so darned afraid somebody will say 'Whoa,' and he won't hear it, that he stops to listen."

## Had Reached the Limit

PAT McCARTHY gave a dinner, to which he invited three or four of his neighbors. Pat had allowed his wife to cook only one chicken. When dinner was served Pat took possession of the carving knife, and, in a most hospitable tone, said to Mrs. Dugan:

"What part of the fowl will you have?"

"A leg, if you please," was the answer.

"An' what part will yez have? Would yez loike some of the white?" Pat inquired of Mrs. O'Hooligan.

"An' a leg will do me," she answered. As each answered the part of the fowl she desired was given her.

"What part will yez have, Moike Walsh?" Pat blandly inquired of his neighbor.

"Oi belave Oi will take a leg, too," said Mike, in his most modest way, wishing to follow in the footsteps of the rest of the company.

"Begorra," said Pat to Mickey, "what does yez think Oi'm carving — a spider?"

## A Queer Charge

MR. SISSONS stammered very badly. Especially difficult to him was the pronunciation of his own name. He became intoxicated one night and had to account for it before the magistrate at the police court next morning.

"What is your name?" asked Justice McGowan.

Sissons began his reply: "Sss-ss-sss-ss-siss" —

"Stop that noise and tell me what is your name," said the judge, impatiently.

"Siss-sss-sss-sissss" —

"That will do," said his honor, severely. "Officer, what is that man charged with?"

"I think, your honor, he's charged wid sody-water."

## Could Eat, But Couldn't See

A FARMER who went to a large city to see the sights engaged a room at a hotel, and before retiring asked the clerk about the hours for dining.

"We have breakfast from six to eleven, dinner from eleven to three, and supper from three to eight," explained the clerk.

"Wa-al, say," inquired the farmer in surprise, "what time air I goin' ter git ter see the town?"

## She Wanted to Watch Him

"AND will you have gas, madam?" inquired the dentist, as a stout, elderly woman entered his office.

"Well," she replied with a doubtful glance at the doctor, "you don't suppose I'm going to let you tinker about me in the dark, do you?"

## And That Settled It

"IF ye please, mum," said the ancient hero, in an appealing voice, as he stood at the back door of the cottage on washday, "I've lost my leg ——"

"Well, I ain't got it," snapped the woman fiercely.

And the door closed with a bang.

## The Real Thing in Ancestors

"HAVE ye anny ancisters, Mrs. Kelly?" asked Mrs. O'Brien.

"An' phwat's ancisters?"

"Why people you shprung from."

"Listen to me, Mrs. O'Brien," said Mrs. Kelly impressively. "I come from the rale shtock av Donahues thot shpring from nobody. They shpring at thim!"

## Dangerous Illness

AN old negro, riding on the train, fell asleep with his mouth wide open. A mischievous drummer came along and, having a convenient capsule of quinine in his pocket, uncorked it and sifted the bitter dose well into the old negro's mouth at the root of his tongue. Soon the darky awoke and became much disturbed. He called for the conductor and asked:

"Boss, is dere a doctor on dis here train?"

"I don't know," said the conductor. "Are you sick?"

"Yas, suh, I sho' is sick."

"What is the matter with you?"

"I dunno, suh, but it tastes like I busted my gall."

## No More Use for Him

AN Irishman came into the office of the president of the Illinois Central Railroad and said:

"Me name's Casey. Oi worruk out in th' yar-r-ds. Oi'd loik a pass to St. Louis."

"That is no way to ask for a pass," said the president. "You should introduce yourself politely. Come back in an hour and try it again."

At the end of the day back came the Irishman. Doffing his hat, he inquired: "Are yez the man I saw before?"

"I am."

"Me name is Patrick Casey. Oi've been workin' out in th' yar-r-ds."

"Glad to know you, Mr. Casey. What can I do for you?"

"Oi've got a job an' a pass to St. Louis on th' Wabash. Yez can go to hell."

## Death Preferred

A HEBREW fell into a river and was swimming ashore, when an Irishman shouted at him, "Don't you know there is a $50 fine for swimming here?" The Hebrew said "I vont pay it," put up his hands and sank.

## Mark Twain's Lawn Mower

HERE is a good Mark Twain story. Some years ago the famous humorist asked a neighbor if he might read a set of his books. The neighbor replied ungraciously that he was welcome to read them in his library, but he had a rule never to let a book leave the house. Some weeks later the same neighbor sent over to ask for the loan of his lawn mower.

"I shall be very glad to loan you my lawn mower," said Mark Twain, "but since I make it a rule never to let it leave my lawn you will be obliged to use it there."

## The Torn Trousers

A MAN and his wife arrived at a dance quite late in the evening only for the husband to discover that in slipping on the icy pavement he had cut one knee of his trousers. The dressing-rooms were entirely empty, and the wife suggested:

"Here, come in the ladies' dressing-room. No one is in there and I will pin it up and make it do for the evening."

But an examination showed that the cut was too large, and no pinning up would do.

"I have a needle and black thread," suggested the maid attendant; "if the gentleman doesn't mind, I will stand at the door and see that no one comes in."

The trousers were hastily taken off and an overcoat made to serve as a robe. The wife quickly sewed, but

in the middle of the task loud voices were heard arguing with the maid:

"We must come in, maid. A lady is sick. Quick, let us in."

The husband blanched; the maid looked appealingly; the wife glanced hurriedly around the room.

"Here, quick," she said to her husband, grabbing the knob of a door, "get into this closet for a moment."

And opening the door she pushed her husband through, and slammed it. In a moment, however, a terrific hammering started on the other side of the "closet" door.

"Quick, Alice," came a voice, "let me back, quick."

"But the women are here," said the wife; "what's ——"

"Oh, hang the women," came the voice and another thump; "I'm in the ballroom!"

## No Exit

A DRUNKEN man threw his arms around a telegraph pole, and then began to feel the pole with his hands. Round and round he went. Finally he gave it up and muttered: "No use. Walled in."

## A Devotional Turn of Mind

AS the minister of the village was on his way to service he met a young man of the place whom he was anxious to have become a member of the church.

"Good evening, my young friend," he said solemnly, "do you ever attend a place of worship?"

"Yes, indeed, sir; regularly, every Sunday night," replied the young fellow with a smile. "I'm on my way to see her now."

## Nearly Won the Bet

PAT bet Mike he could carry a hod of bricks to the top of a 50 foot building with Mike sitting on the hod. When near the top Pat made a misstep and nearly dropped Mike to the stone sidewalk. Arriving at the top, Pat said: "Begorra, I've won the bet."

"Yer have," said Mike, "but whin ye shlipped, I thought I had ye."

## Custard A La Burbank

LUTHER BURBANK, the "wizard of horticulture," is subjected to constant annoyance at home and abroad by obtrusive and inquisitive strangers. He was walking on the street in San Francisco recently when one of them seized him by the arm, captured his reluctant hand and pumped it vigorously.

"How are you, Burbank? How are you?" he inquired effusively. "What miracle are you working on now?"

"Well — it's a secret," replied the expert; "but I don't mind telling you. I'm grafting milkweed on eggplant!"

"Yes — yes? What do you expect to produce?"

"Custard!"

## Tough Luck

A 300-POUND fat man stood viewing with longing eyes the display in a haberdasher's window. A friend passing asked him if he was going to purchase. "Not for me," sadly replied the fat man; "the only thing that fits me ready-made is a handkerchief."

## A Perfect Lady

LATE one night a young woman applied at the office of the country hotel for a room. Owing to a County Fair being held that week, every room in the hotel was occupied. Realizing the situation, but wishing to accommodate her, if possible, the clerk ventured the suggestion that there was one room that had two beds in it, that only one was occupied and that perhaps she would be willing to occupy the empty one.

"But who, may I ask, is sleeping in the other bed?"

"Well, er, that's just what, er, I was hesitating about. The manager sleeps there."

"Sir!" replied the lady, hotly indignant, "how dare you insult me? I want you to understand that I'm a perfect lady!"

"Oh, that's all right," said the clerk, "so is the manager."

## Good Friday

A HUNGRY Irishman went into a restaurant on Friday and said to the waiter:

"Have yez any whale?"

"No."

"Have yez any shark?"

"No."

"Have yez any swordfish?"

"No."

"Have yez any jellyfish?"

"No."

"All right," said the Irishman, "then, be gobbs, bring me ham and eggs and a beefsteak smothered wid onions. The Lord knows I asked for fish."

## One Vote Lost

A COLORED citizen was up before his honor on complaint of his wife for some domestic trouble.

Judge: "Who married you?"

Colored Citizen: "You did, sah, but I ain't never voted fur you, sence."

## No Interruption

SENATOR PERKINS of California tells a story of a scene in a court room on the coast where a man arrested for robbery vehemently asserted his innocence, even after he had been convicted by a jury.

"May the Almighty strike me dead on this spot if I am not innocent!" he shouted.

The judge waited for a minute or two. Then he said: "Well, prisoner, as Providence has not interfered I will take a hand and sentence you to three years of hard labor."

## Bridget's Reply

THE story is told of a well known man, who, not finding his wife, went into the kitchen where the laundress was busy with the family linen, and inquired: "Bridget, do you know anything of my wife's whereabouts?" "Yis, sor," replied Bridget, "I put them in the wash."

## Beats the Coal Trust

A CERTAIN old fellow out in Kansas has the reputation of being the meanest man in the state. He never buys any coal. He lives near a railroad and makes faces at the engineer.

## Good Logic

"DON'T you want to buy a bicycle to ride around your farm on?" asked the hardware clerk, as he was wrapping up the nails. "They're cheap now. I can let you have a first class one for $35."

"I'd rather put $35 in a cow," replied the farmer.

"But think," persisted the clerk, "how foolish you'd look riding around on a cow."

"Oh, I don't know," said the farmer, stroking his chin; "no more foolish, I guess, than I would milkin' a bicycle."

## A Faultless Horse

AN Irish horse-dealer sold a mare, as sound in wind and limb and without fault. It afterwards appeared that the poor beast could not see at all out of one eye, and was almost blind of the other.

The purchaser finding this, made heavy complaints to the dealer, and reminded him that he engaged the mare to be without fault.

"To be sure," returned the other, "to be sure I did, but then, my dear, the poor crater's blindness is not her fault, but her misfortune."

## Not on Her Life

A WOMAN walked into a large department store. The floor-walker, who was very bow-legged, asked her what he could do for her. She told him that she would like to look at some handkerchiefs.

"Just walk this way, ma'am," said the floor-walker.

The woman looked at his legs.

"No, sir," indignantly replied the old lady; "I'll die first."

## Would Get Better Results

A LITTLE boy was sitting behind a bald-headed man at church, who was scratching the fringe of hair on one side of his bald pate. The old gentleman kept it up so long that at last the little boy became interested, and, leaning over, said:

"Say, mister, you'll never catch him there. Why don't you run him out in the open?"

## Pat's Reason

THERE was once an Irishman, who sought employment as a diver, bringing with him his native enthusiasm and a certain amount of experience. Although he had never been beneath the water, he had crossed an ocean of one variety and swallowed nearly an ocean of another. But he had the Hibernian smile, which is convincing, and the firm chanced to need a new man. And so on the following Monday morning Pat hid his smile for the first time in a diving helmet.

Now, the job upon which the crew to which Pat had attached himself was working in comparatively shallow water, and Pat was provided with a pick and told to use it on a ledge below in a manner with which he was already familiar.

Down he went with his pick, and for about fifteen minutes nothing was heard from him. Then came a strong pull on the signal rope, indicating that Pat had a decided wish to come to the top. The assistants pulled him hastily to the raft and removed his helmet.

"Take off the rest of it," said Pat.

"Take off the rest of it?"

"Yis," said Pat, "Oi'll worruk no longer in a place where Oi can't spit on me hands."

## Good Measure

"MY friend Casey, had a friend named Sullivan, who was very sick, and as there was no one else available Casey told the physician that he would sit up with him. Well, the doctor told Casey to administer a powder at 10 o'clock and to give him just what he could get on a dime and no more. He took a dime from his pocket and showed Casey the necessary portion and cautioned him against giving an overdose. Casey said he understood and the doctor left — of course without leaving the dime. The next morning when he called he found the man dead. He said to Casey, 'did you give him the dose I prescribed?' Casey said, 'of course I did. I didn't have a dime so I put it on two nickels.'"

## A Reinvestment

A MISSOURI man tells of an Irishman named Coughlin, who lived in a shanty standing in a field near the main highway from Kansas City. The foundations of the shanty were lower than the road, through which ran a big water main. As the living floor of the place was raised on posts, it left a large cellar underneath, where Coughlin kept hens. One day the water main burst, drowning the hens. Influential friends succeeded in securing the sum of $25 in settlement. "And phwat are ye goin' to do with the twinty-foive, Coughlin?" he was asked. "I'm going to buy twinty-foive dollars' worth of ducks," said Coughlin.

## A Warning

A ONE-EYED man was cheating at poker. A man who detected him said: "The first man I catch cheating, I'll shoot his other eye out."

## Pat's Fear

AN old Irishman who had recently recovered from a severe attack of sickness, chanced to meet his parish priest, who had been summoned during his illness to administer the rites of the church to the dying, as he was considered to be near death's door. The following conversation took place: "Ah, Pat, I see you're out again. We thought you were gone sure. You had a pretty serious time of it."

"Yis, yer riverance, indade I did."

"When you were so near death's door, were you not afraid to meet your God, your Maker?"

"No, indade, your riverance. It was the other gintlemin."

## The Disobliging Horse

MARSHALL P. WILDER tells with gusto of two men of his acquaintance who hired a horse and trap for a day's outing in the country. When they had reached their destination the horse was unhitched and allowed peacefully to graze whilst they enjoyed some excellent fishing.

When the time came to go home, the two found themselves in a predicament, for neither knew how to reharness the beast. They made many efforts, but with the same result each time. Their chief difficulty was adjusting the bit, the horse making not the least response to their overtures.

"Well," exclaimed one of the men finally, sitting down with a discouraged expression, "there's only one thing to do — wait."

"Wait for what?" asked his companion.

"Wait for the fool to yawn!"

## Accurate Aim Needed

A MAN went into a Jew clothing store and tried on a coat and vest. While the Jew turned his back to get the trousers, the man ran out of the store. A policeman came by and pulled his pistol. The Jew called out excitedly: "Shoot him in the pants. The coat and vest is mine."

## Still Had to Come

THE Captain of an Atlantic liner approached a miserable looking man leaning over the railing.

"Waiting for the moon to come up, eh?" he asked.

"Oh, dear me," ejaculated the ill one, "has that got to come up too?"

## Couldn't Do It

IN a geography class a teacher asked: "Tom, your father is a sailor: would it be possible for him to keep on sailing always in the same direction till he came back to his starting point?"

"No, Miss Cameron."

"Why?"

"He's in jail."

## His Attractive Surroundings

ONE of the many friends of a noted humorist, upon entering their club house one evening, saw the usual group of admirers gathered about him to enjoy his witticisms. Passing over that way, the friend remarked: "Hello, old chap; surrounded by your coterie, as usual?"

"Yes," replied the humorist with a twinkle in his eye, "likewise by my panterie and my vesterie."

## Tried to Tell Her

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl, fresh from her first skating on the lake, dashed into a room where her sister was sitting "holding converse" with her most particular young man acquaintance.

"Sis, you ought to have seen me," she breathlessly cried; "the first time I stood up my feet went right up in the air and I came down plump on my ——"

"Minnie," interrupted the sister, getting uneasy.

"Well, what?" asked Minnie. "My legs just scooted from under me and I came down plump on my ——"

"Minnie," screamed her sister, "leave the room instantly!"

"But he's hurt," said Minnie.

"Hurt?" asked the sister; "who's hurt?"

"Why, brother, I came down on him, only you wouldn't let me tell you."

## What?

IN a newly mustered Irish regiment a conscientious lieutenant was haranguing his men before starting for the front.

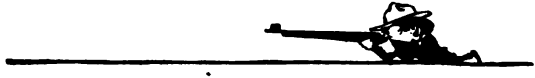
"It all depends on yez byes," he exhorted. "Will yez fight or will yez run?"

"We will!"

"Will what?"

"Will not!" responded the men with one accord.

"I knew yez would," said the satisfied officer proudly.



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